**Differentiated Instruction and Technology**

The article, “Differentiated Instruction and Technology” for lack of a better term, totally rocked! Not only was it a quick read but also it was very informative and reinforced some of the things I am doing in the classroom. Educators are familiar with the term Differentiated Instruction but often, educators do not think about differentiating instruction using technology. The article gave six advantages to using technology with differentiated instruction. The six advantages are as follows: Privacy, Collaboration and Communication Skills, Organization, Learning Styles and Sensory styles, Choices, and Authentic Learning. The first advantage to using technology is that it allows for confidentiality for students who need instruction that their peers might deem as low. The second advantage is Collaboration and Communication, now while most people feel that technology isolates people, the new social online technology is actually creating new relationships and bonds that might not ever existed. Also by using technology, organization is enhanced because there are software programs such as Inspiration to create outlines and graphic organizers. Technology also addresses a variety of learning styles because the learner can see, hear, and interact with the technology. Technology also gives students a multitude of choices and students who use technology are often engaging in authentic learning tasks.

The article also highlighted terminology that I was not familiar with, such as Curriculum compacting, Learning Profiles, and Learning Contracts. Curriculum compacting focuses on the most important skills and utilizes the learner’s strengths and builds upon those. This idea is used for gifted students but I don’t see why this idea is not used for all students! The second term, learning styles is something that I think teachers recognize in their students but I like the formality of the teacher and the student sitting down and discussing how the student learns best. The article also gave another Theory of Intelligence that I was not familiar with. The theory is Steinberg's Triarchic Theory of Successful Intelligence and the theory states that there are three intelligences, creative, analytical, and practical intelligence. Lastly, while I am familiar with Individualized Educational Plans (IEP’s), I have never heard of a Learning Contract. A Learning Contract is conference with the student to determine how the student will demonstrate learning, what type of work and time the learner needs to accomplish the task, what resources and material the student needs, and what the student needs to be successful.

I will definitely discuss some of these ideas with my colleagues at work. Some of the things that I will share are Steinberg's Triarchic Theory of Successful Intelligence and Learning Contracts. One of my co-teachers and I were just talking about Creative intelligence in students with special needs and how this is not honored in our society. I will also share the Learning Contracts with my co-op math teacher and integrate this into our lesson plan one week. This article while short was a wealth of information and I am glad that I picked this article to review.